

Docket No.: R2180.0161/P161  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Yasushi Abe, et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: July 17, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: APPARATUS, PROGRAM, MEDIUM  
FOR IMAGE-AREA SEPARATION,  
IMAGE PROCESSING AND IMAGE  
FORMING

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith. A copy of documents AA, AC, BA, and BB listed on the PTO/SB/08 is attached. Copies of the remaining documents are not attached as they correspond to pending U.S. patent applications which are readily accessible by the Patent Examiner.

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language references is enclosed.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is:

☒ not given

☐ given for each listed item

☐ given for only non-English language listed items

☐ in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be “material” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is “prior art” for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed documents.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

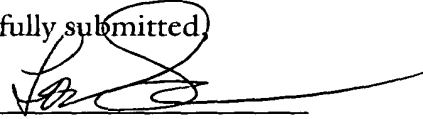
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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2180.0161/P161. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: July 17, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	July 17, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Yasushi Abe
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	R2180.0161/P161

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	AA	US-2001/0040978 A1	11/15/2001	Abe	
	AB	US-09/583,603			
	AC	US-6,580,804	06/17/2003	Abe	
	AD	US-08/539,334			
	AE	US-08/241,999			
	AF	US-08/211,266			
	AG	US-08/211,433			
	AH	US-08/088,044			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
	BA	Japan 05-284358	10/29/1993			
	BB	Japan 2777378				

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the application number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.